

IN THE CLAIMS

1) (Currently Amended) A catalyst useful in the formation of polyisocyanurate foam from an isocyanate and a polyol comprising:

- a) an amine component comprising 2(2-Dimethylaminoethyl)methylamino-ethanol, which is capable of catalyzing the isocyanate trimerization reaction at a temperature of between 140 °C and 181 °C ; and
- b) a trimer catalyst component.

2) (Original) A catalyst according to claim 1 wherein said trimer catalyst comprises an alkali metal salt of a carboxylic acid.

3) (Original) A catalyst according to claim 2 wherein said salt is selected from the group consisting of: octoate salts and acetate salts of an element selected from the group consisting of: lithium, sodium, potassium, and cesium.

4) (Original) A catalyst according to claim 1 further comprising an additional amine component.

5) (Original) A catalyst according to claim 4 wherein said additional amine component is selected from the group consisting of: pentamethyldiethylenetriamine; dimethylcyclohexylamine; 2,2'-oxybis (N,N-dimethylethanamine); aminophenol; dimethylethanolamine; dimethylpiperazine; N-ethylmorpholine; N-methylmorpholine; 1,3,5-triazine-1,3,5 (2H, 4H, 6H)-tripropanamine, N, N, N',N', N'', N''-hexamethyl; 1,3-propanediamine,N'-(3-(dimethylamino)propyl)-N,N-dimethyl; 2-propanol, 1-(bis(3-dimethylamino)propyl) amino); 2-((2-(2-(dimethylamino)ethoxy)ethyl)methyl-amino)-ethanol; dimethylaminoethoxyethanol; 1,3-propanediamine, N-[3-(dimethylamino)propyl]-N,N',N'-trimethyl; 1,3-propanediamine, N, N-bis[3-(dimethylamino)propyl]-N',N'-dimethyl; morpholine, 4,4'-(oxydi-2,1-ethanediyl)bis-dimorpholino ethane; and triethylenediamine.

6) (Original) A catalyst according to claim 1, further comprising an organotin compound.

7) (Currently Amended) A process for producing an isocyanurate foam product comprising the steps of:

- a) providing an isocyanate and a polyol;
- b) providing a catalyst comprising:
 - i) ~~an~~ a first amine component comprising consisting of 2(2-Dimethylaminoethyl)methylamino-ethanol, said first amine component capable of trimerization at an elevated temperature; and
 - ii) a trimer catalyst component;
- c) contacting said isocyanate and said polyol in the presence of said catalyst.

8) (Original) A process according to claim 7 wherein said isocyanate is selected from the group consisting of: aromatic di-isocyanates, polymeric isocyanates, aliphatic di-isocyanates, and aliphatic tri-isocyanates.

9) (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 7 wherein said polyol is selected from the group consisting of: aromatic polyesterpolyols, amino polyols, mannich polyols, sucrose polyols, sorbitol polyols, and combinations thereof.

10) (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 7 wherein said trimer catalyst is selected from the group consisting of: potassium octoate; potassium acetate; 2-hydroxypropyl trimethylammonium 2-ethylhexanoate; and 2-hydroxypropyl trimethylammonium formate.

11) (Original) A process according to claim 7 wherein said catalyst further comprises: iii) a second amine component selected from the group consisting of: pentamethyldiethylenetriamine; dimethylethanolamine; 2, 2'-oxybis (N,N-dimethylethanolamine); triethylenediamine; 1,3,5-triazine-1,3,5 (2H, 4H, 6H)-tripropanamine, N, N, N',N', N'', N''-hexamethyl; 1,3-propanediamine, N, N-bis[3-(dimethylamino)propyl]-N',N'-dimethyl; aminophenol; and 1,3-propanediamine, N-[3-(dimethylamino)propyl]-N,N',N'-trimethyl.

12) (Currently Amended) A process for producing an isocyanurate foam product comprising the steps of:

- a) providing an isocyanate and a polyol;
- b) providing a blowing agent;
- c) providing a catalyst comprising:

- i) ~~an~~ a first amine component comprising consisting of 2(2-Dimethylaminoethyl)methylamino-ethanol, which is capable of catalyzing the trimer reaction at a temperature of at least 140 °C; and

- ii) a trimer catalyst component;

- d) contacting said isocyanate and said polyol in the presence of said catalyst and said blowing agent.

13) (Original) A process according to claim 12 wherein said isocyanate is selected from the group consisting of: aromatic di-isocyanates, polymeric isocyanates, aliphatic di-isocyanates, and aliphatic tri-isocyanates.

14) (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 12 wherein said polyol is selected from the group consisting of: aromatic polyesterpolyols, amino polyols, mannich polyols, sucrose polyols, sorbitol polyols, and combinations thereof.

15) (Original) A process according to claim 12 wherein said trimer catalyst is selected from the group consisting of: 2-hydroxypropyl trimethylammonium 2-ethylhexanoate; and 2-hydroxypropyl trimethylammonium formate.

16) (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 12 wherein said blowing agent is selected from the group consisting of: water, carbon dioxide, pentane, isopentane, n – pentane, cyclopentane, butane, and dichloromonofluoroethane or another chlorofluorocarbon

17) (Original) A process according to claim 12 wherein said catalyst further comprises: iii) a second amine component selected from the group consisting of:
pentamethyldiethylenetriamine; dimethylethanolamine; 2, 2'-oxybis (N,N-dimethylethanamine); triethylenediamine; 1,3,5-triazine-1,3,5 (2H, 4H, 6H)-tripropanamine, N, N, N',N', N'', N''-hexamethyl; 1,3-propanediamine, N, N-bis[3-(dimethylamino)propyl]-N',N'-dimethyl; aminophenol; and 1,3-propanediamine, N-[3-(dimethylamino)propyl]-N,N',N'-trimethyl.

Claims 18-20 (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 7 wherein contacting said isocyanate and said polyol in the presence of said catalyst includes contacting said isocyanate and said polyol in the presence of said catalyst at a temperature of at least 140 °C.

22. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 21 wherein contacting said isocyanate and said polyol in the presence of said catalyst includes contacting said isocyanate and said polyol in the presence of said catalyst for at least 650 seconds.

23. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 21 wherein contacting said isocyanate and said polyol in the presence of said catalyst includes contacting said isocyanate and said polyol in the presence of said catalyst at a temperature of between 140 °C and 181 °C.

24. (New) The process of claim 7 further including providing said first amine component in the range of from 0.02 to 10 parts by weight based on 100 parts of the polyol.

25. (New) The process of claim 24 further including providing said trimer catalyst component in the range of from 0.02 to 10 parts by weight based on 100 parts of the polyol.